

For Immediate Release
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**Federal Court Naturalizes Citizens as Part of
National Celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day**
*Media is Welcome to Cover First-Ever National Day
Of Naturalization Ceremonies*

America's newest citizens will take the Oath of Allegiance at naturalization ceremonies from New York to Alaska, including at the Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton, Virginia, as part of this year's celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17, 2014.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia is among [two dozen federal courts](#) around the country that have scheduled naturalization ceremonies marking the date in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the nation's founding document.

Our local ceremony will be held at the Frontier Culture Museum at 11:00 am, on September 17, 2014, with Magistrate Judge James G. Welsh presiding. 80 people will become new U.S. citizens during the ceremony. Over 600 students from local area schools will be in attendance; students will present the Colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Naturalization ceremonies are the best civics lesson you can receive," said Magistrate Judge James G. Welsh, who annually presides over the ceremony held at the Frontier Culture Museum as well as ceremonies held throughout the year in the Harrisonburg division.

This is the first time the Federal Judiciary has coordinated a day of naturalization ceremonies across the nation. To support Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, as well as court-related civics education, the federal courts provide multi-media [educational resources](#) that are ready for immediate use in courtrooms and classrooms.

The federal courts' national initiative is part of broader efforts by the [Civics Renewal Network](#), (CRN) convened by the Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics at the Annenberg Public Policy Center. CRN is an alliance of [26 organizations](#) dedicated to raising the visibility of civics education and providing free, high-quality resources for teachers. Partners include the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Constitution Center, the Newseum, the National Endowment for the Humanities' EDSITEment, and the U.S. Courts. Follow on Twitter: [@CivicsRenewal](#).

Media Advisory

Please contact Lydia Volskis at the Frontier Culture Museum for media procedures.

New citizens, their families, and participating students are not obligated to grant interviews, but reporters are free to request interviews after the ceremony.